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USAID and Local Partners Generate Incomes for Tsunami Victims

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has recently provided more than \$1.1 million for the implementation of seven short-term cash-for-work programs that will employ nearly 15,000 people and benefit approximately 75,000 people (15,000 x 5 the average family size) in Aceh, affected by the December 26 earthquake and tsunami. More than 93% of the amount provided will go directly into workers' pockets, providing much needed income to families while recovering and clearing essential community sites and infrastructure, such as schools and roads.

"The cash-for-work programs are short-term solutions aimed at helping families to begin to rebuild their lives by engaging people in a productive activity in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. These constructive activities will also help people overcome this traumatic experience," states William M. Frej, Mission Director for USAID/Indonesia.

USAID is working with several local and international partners to implement the cash-for-work programs, which generates between US \$3.30 - \$5.60 per day for participants. The seven grants include the following partners and programs: \$62,688 to Muhammadiyah for essential school and village clean-up; \$74,745 to Yayasan Rumpun Bambu for cash-for-work rehabilitation activities in Banda Aceh city and Aceh Besar District; \$750,000 to Mercy Corps for three cash-for-work clean-up programs focused on the recovery of strategic infrastructure sites; \$13,900 to Lembaga Pembinaan Dan Pengembangan Masyarakat (LPPM) for school clean-up in the Darussalam Campus complex, and \$237,380 is programmed for Project Concern International for cash-for-work activities targeting women-headed households in areas not supported by other donors. USAID also provided \$15,000 to SATKORLAK, the provincial disaster management agency in Aceh, for equipment and disaster management training.

To date, the U.S. Government has provided more than \$37.3 million to support emergency relief activities and the provision of food, water, shelter and relief supplies for the population affected in Indonesia. The U.S. government continued to demonstrate its commitment to support Indonesia in its efforts to respond to the tsunami disaster in Aceh as well as to build a moderate, stable and productive Indonesia by pledging \$184 million in 2005 assistance at the meeting of Consultative Group on Indonesia.

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